

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 have been amended, and claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 4 has been amended into independent form. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 remain pending in the present application. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and claims as filed. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

**Specification**

With respect to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the terms "clamp" and "round slot" have been objected to because of informalities, in that "clamp" should be replaced by "E-clip" and "round slot" should be replaced by "circular groove".

"Clamp" has thus been amended to "E-clip" (page 2, line 19; page 5, line 16; page 6, line 3 and 5); and "round slot" has been amended to "circular groove" (page 6, line 3-5) -- to eliminate the informality objection. It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112**

With respect to paragraphs 2 - 4 of the Office Action, claims 4, 8 and claims 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

The term "clamp" in the currently amended claims 4 and 8 has been replaced by the term "E-clip" so that the indefinite issue is eliminated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

With respect to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pate (US 6,389,853).

Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice, and the currently amended claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 5. Of the rejected claims, only claim 1 is independent.

Therefore, the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

With respect to Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Office Action, the Office Action rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pate (US 6,389,853).

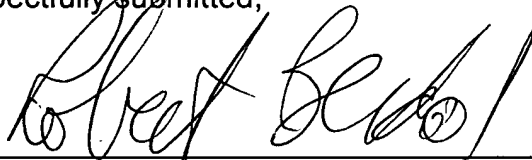
As described above, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 5. Claim 3 depends from the independent claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection has also been rendered moot.

**Conclusion**

For all of the above reasons, Applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims patentably define over the prior art. Other cited references of record have been studied, and are found to be no more relevant to the present invention than the applied art. Therefore Applicant respectfully requests issuance for this case at the Office's earliest convenience.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



September 23, 2005  
Date

Robert H. Berdo, Jr. – Registration No. 38,075  
RABIN & BERDO, PC – Customer No. 23995  
Facsimile: 202-408-0924; 202-408-5297  
Telephone: 202-371-8976

RHB:vm